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Fiftieth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (c)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and other applicable human rights instruments,

Aware that, in accordance with the Charter, the Organization promotes and encourages respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government",

Recalling its resolution 49/197 of 23 December 1994,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/58 of 3 March 1992, 3/ in which the Commission, inter alia, decided to nominate a special rapporteur to establish direct contacts with the Government and with the people of Myanmar, including political leaders deprived of their liberty, their families and their lawyers, with a view to examining the situation of human rights in Myanmar and following any progress made towards the transfer of power to a civilian Government and the drafting of a new constitution, the lifting of restrictions on personal freedoms and the restoration of human rights in Myanmar,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/72 of 8 March 1995, 4/ in which the Commission decided to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur,

Gravely concerned that the Government of Myanmar still has not implemented its commitment to take all necessary steps towards democracy in the light of the results of the elections held in 1990,

Welcoming the release without conditions of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on 10 July 1995, as well as of a number of other political prisoners, as called for by the General Assembly,

Gravely concerned, however, at the continued violations of human rights in Myanmar, as reported by the Special Rapporteur, including killings of civilians, arbitrary arrest and detention, restrictions on freedoms of expression and association, torture, forced labour, forced portering, human rights abuses in border areas in the course of military operations, forced relocations and development projects, abuse of women and the imposition of oppressive measures directed in particular at ethnic and religious minorities,

Welcoming the continued cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar,

Noting, however, that the human rights situation in Myanmar has resulted in flows of refugees to neighbouring countries, thus creating problems for the countries concerned,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights for his interim report on the situation of human rights in Myanmar; 5/

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

4/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

5/ A/50/568.

2. Also expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report; 6/

3. Deplores the continued violations of human rights in Myanmar;

4. Welcomes the release without conditions of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other prominent political leaders;

5. Strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to release immediately and unconditionally detained political leaders and all political prisoners, to ensure their physical integrity and to permit them to participate in the process of national reconciliation;

6. Urges the Government of Myanmar to engage, at the earliest possible date, in a substantive political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, including representatives of ethnic groups, as the best means of promoting national reconciliation and the full and early restoration of democracy;

7. Welcomes the discussions between the Government of Myanmar and the Secretary-General, and further encourages the Government of Myanmar to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General;

8. Again urges the Government of Myanmar, in conformity with its assurances given at various times, to take all necessary steps towards the restoration of democracy in accordance with the will of the people as expressed in the democratic elections held in 1990 and to ensure that political parties can function freely;

9. Expresses its concern that most of the representatives duly elected in 1990 are still excluded from participating in the meetings of the National Convention, created to prepare basic elements for the drafting of a new constitution, and that one of its objectives is to maintain the participation of the armed forces in a leading role in the future political life of the State, and notes with concern that the working procedures of the National Convention do not permit the elected representatives of the people freely to express their views;

10. Strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to take all appropriate measures to allow all citizens to participate freely in the political process in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to accelerate the process of transition to democracy, in particular through the transfer of power to democratically elected representatives;

11. Also strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and assembly, and the protection of the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, and to put an end to violations of the right to life and integrity or the human being, to the practices of torture, abuse of women,

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6/ A/50/782.

forced labour and forced relocations, and to enforced disappearances and summary executions;

12. Appeals to the Government of Myanmar to consider becoming a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; 7/

13. Urges the Government of Myanmar to fulfil its obligations as a State party to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), of the International Labour Organization;

14. Stresses the importance for the Government of Myanmar to give particular attention to conditions in the country's jails and to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to communicate freely and confidentially with prisoners;

15. Calls upon the Government of Myanmar to respect fully the obligations of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, 8/ and to make use of such services as may be offered by impartial humanitarian bodies;

16. Expresses its grave concern at the attacks by Myanmar army soldiers on the Karens and the Karennis during the past year, resulting in further refugee flows to a neighbouring country;

17. Welcomes the cessation of hostilities following the conclusion of cease-fire agreements between the Government of Myanmar and several ethnic groups;

18. Encourages the Government of Myanmar to create the necessary conditions to ensure an end to the movements of refugees to neighbouring countries and to create conditions conducive to their voluntary return and their full reintegration, in conditions of safety and dignity;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his discussions with the Government of Myanmar in order to assist in the implementation of the present resolution and in its efforts for national reconciliation, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session;

20. Decides to continue its consideration of this issue at its fifty-first session.

7/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

8/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Australia, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Venezuela: draft resolution

International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/119 of 20 December 1993, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/22 of 24 February 1995,

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights 1/ constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights and, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2/ form the core of the International Bill of Human Rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 3/

1/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

2/ Resolution 217 A (III).

3/ A/50/472.

Noting that many States Members of the United Nations have yet to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Welcoming the submission to the General Assembly of the annual report of the Human Rights Committee 4/ and the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Considering that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established in accordance with the relevant provisions of international instruments on human rights plays a fundamental role and hence represents an important continuing concern of the United Nations,

Noting with concern the critical situation with regard to overdue reports from States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

1. Reaffirms the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major parts of international efforts to promote universal respect for an observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. Appeals strongly to all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as to accede to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to make the declaration provided for in its article 41;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to intensify systematic efforts to encourage States to become parties to the Covenants and, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to assist such States, at their request, in ratifying or acceding to the Covenants and to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

4. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/50/40).

5. Stresses the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation, and underlines the necessity of strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bearing in mind the need for States parties to provide the fullest possible information during states of emergency, so that the justification for the appropriateness of measures taken in these circumstances can be assessed;

6. Stresses the importance of fully taking into account the gender perspective, i.e., the need to take into account the specific need and situations of women in the implementation of the Covenants at the national level, including the national reports, and in the work of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

7. Encourages the States to consider limiting the extent of any reservations they lodge to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty or otherwise contrary to international law;

8. Also encourages the States parties to review regularly any reservations made in respect of the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights with a view to withdrawing them;

9. Takes note with appreciation of the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions;

10. Also takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its tenth and eleventh sessions;

11. Expresses its satisfaction with the serious and constructive manner in which both Committees are carrying out their function;

12. Invites the committees to identify specific needs of States parties that might be addressed through the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme of the Centre for Human Rights, with the possible participation of members of the Committees where appropriate;

13. Welcomes the continuing efforts of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Human Rights, and appeals to other bodies dealing with similar human rights questions to respect these uniform standards, as expressed in the general comments of the Human Rights Committee;

14. Urges States parties to fulfil in good time such reporting obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights as may be requested and in their reports to make use of gender-disaggregated data;

15. Also urges States parties to take duly into account, in implementing the provisions of the Covenants, the observations made at the conclusion of the

consideration of their reports by the Human Rights Committee and by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

16. Invites States parties to give particular attention to the dissemination at the national level of the reports they have submitted to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the summary records relating to the examination of those reports by the Committees and the observations made by the Committees at the conclusion of the consideration of the reports;

17. Encourages once again all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in as many local languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of assisting States parties to the Covenants in the preparation of their reports, including seminars or workshops at the national level for the purpose of training government officials engaged in the preparation of such reports, and the exploration of other possibilities available under regular programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat effectively assists the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates;

20. Once again urges the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps to give more publicity to the work of that Committee and, similarly, to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions", a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including all reservations and declarations.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Mozambique, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Zambia: draft resolution

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Deeply disturbed by the growing number of internally displaced persons throughout the world who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious problems this is creating for the international community,

Recalling the relevant norms of international human rights instruments as well as of international humanitarian law,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, which calls for a comprehensive approach by the international community with regard to refugees and displaced persons,

Reiterating its call for a more concerted response by the international community to the needs of internally displaced persons, while emphasizing that activities on their behalf must not undermine the institution of asylum,

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1/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Conscious of the continuing need for the United Nations system to gather information comprehensively on the issue of the protection of human rights of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1995/57 of 3 March 1995, 2/ in which it extended the mandate of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons for another three years to continue his review of the need for protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including his compilation and analysis of legal norms, the root causes of internal displacement, prevention and long-term solutions,

Encouraged by the progress made thus far by the representative of the Secretary-General in developing a legal framework, studying the causes and manifestations of internal displacement, and analysing institutional arrangements, undertaking dialogue with Governments, issuing a series of reports on particular country situations together with proposals for remedial measures, and raising the level of awareness, both at the national and international levels, to the problem of internal displacement,

Welcoming the cooperation already established between the representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations humanitarian assistance and development organizations engaged in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other relevant organizations,

Welcoming in particular the decision by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to promote further consultations with the representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of internally displaced persons, as well as the decision by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its working group to invite the representative to participate in relevant meetings as well as in its Task Force on internally displaced persons,

Recalling the report of the representative of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session, 3/ and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein with regard to improving protection of, assistance to and development for internally displaced persons,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the representative of the Secretary-General; 4/

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda, (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

3/ E/CN.4/1995/50 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1, Add.3 and Add.4.

4/ A/50/558, annex.

2. Commends the representative for the catalytic role he is playing to raise the level of consciousness about the plight of internally displaced persons;

3. Noting the efforts of the representative to develop a legal framework and to promote strategies for better protection, assistance and development of internally displaced persons;

4. Encourages the representative to continue his analysis of the causes of internal displacement, the needs of those displaced, measures of prevention and ways to increase protection, assistance and solutions for the internally displaced persons;

5. Also encourages the representative to continue to pay specific attention in his review to the protection and assistance needs of women and children, bearing in mind the relevant strategic objective in the Beijing Declaration 5/ and the Platform for Action, 6/ adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995;

6. Calls upon the representative to continue to study the problem of internally displaced persons and to invite specialists and consultants to contribute expert assistance during missions as well as research facilities;

7. Invites the representative to finalize his compilation and analysis of existing legal norms for inclusion in his report to the Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-second session;

8. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of establishing a framework in this regard, such as a declaration for internally displaced persons, on the basis of the representative's report and his recommendations therein;

9. Calls upon all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the representative, encourages them to give serious consideration to inviting the representative to visit their countries so as to enable him to study and analyse more fully the issues involved, and thanks those Governments that have already done so;

10. Invites Governments to give due consideration, in dialogue with the representative, to the recommendations and suggestions made to them by the representative, in accordance with his mandate, and to inform him of measures taken thereon;

11. Urges all relevant United Nations humanitarian and development agencies concerned to establish frameworks of cooperation with the representative in order to provide all possible assistance and support to him in

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5/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

6/ Ibid., annex II.

the implementation of his programme of activities, and invites the representative to report thereon;

12. Calls upon the representative and regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to intensify their cooperation with a view to encouraging their undertaking initiatives to facilitate assistance to and protection of internally displaced persons;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the representative to carry out his mandate effectively;

14. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-second session.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela: draft resolution

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing that these rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person,

Emphasizing that the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is far-reaching and profound and that it encompasses freedom of thought on all matters, personal conviction and the commitment to religion or belief, whether manifested individually or in community with others,

Recalling article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1/

Reaffirming that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Reaffirming the call of the World Conference on Human Rights for all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion,

Calling on all Governments to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on religious intolerance to enable him to carry out his mandate fully,

Recognizing that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

Emphasizing that non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups at every level have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance and the protection of freedom of religion or belief,

Conscious of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of religion and belief,

Welcoming the inclusion of events relating to tolerance and religious diversity among the activities undertaken during the United Nations Year for Tolerance,

Alarmed that serious instances of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious extremism, occur in many parts of the world and threaten the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Deeply concerned that, as reported by the Special Rapporteur, the rights violated on religious grounds include the right to life, the right to physical integrity and to liberty and security of person, the right to freedom of expression, the right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or

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1/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

degrading treatment or punishment, and the right not to be arbitrarily arrested or detained,

Believing that further efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. Reaffirms that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a human right derived from the inherent dignity of the human person and guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. Urges States to ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of religion or belief is violated;

3. Also urges States to ensure, in particular, that no one within their jurisdiction is, because of their religion or belief, deprived of the right to life or the right to physical integrity and security of person, or is subjected to torture or arbitrary arrest or detention;

4. Condemns all instances of hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious extremism and intolerance of religion or belief;

5. Urges States, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to take all necessary action to prevent such instances, to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion, motivated by religious extremism and to encourage, through the educational system and by other means, understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

6. Recognizes that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief;

7. Emphasizes that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

8. Urges States to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, members of law enforcement bodies, civil servants, educators and other public officials respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

9. Calls upon all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the right of all persons to worship or assemble in

connection with a religion or belief, and to establish and maintain places for those purposes;

10. Expresses its grave concern at any attack upon religious places, sites and shrines, and calls upon all States, in accordance with their national legislation and in conformity with international human rights standards, to exert utmost efforts to ensure that such places, sites and shrines are fully respected and protected;

11. Recognizes that the exercise of tolerance and non-discrimination by persons and groups is necessary for the full realization of the aims of the Declaration;

12. Considers it desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to this end, including the dissemination, as a matter of high priority, of the text of the Declaration by United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;

13. Encourages the continued efforts on the part of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

14. Invites the Special Rapporteur, within the terms of his mandate and in the context of recommending remedial measures, to take into account the experiences of various States as to which measures are most effective in promoting freedom of religion and belief and countering all forms of intolerance;

15. Encourages Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate even more effectively;

16. Recommends that the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief be given appropriate priority in the work of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, including with regard to the drafting of legal texts in conformity with international instruments on human rights and taking into account the provisions of the Declaration;

17. Welcomes and encourages the efforts of non-governmental organizations to promote the implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to consider what further contribution they could make to its implementation and dissemination in all parts of the world;

18. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration;

19. Requests the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the necessary staffing and financial and material resources to enable him to discharge his mandate in full and on time;

21. Decides to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its fifty-first session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".